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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/575,988

04/17/2006

Marcello Memmolo

19725

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272 7590 02/01/2011
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EXAMINER

SINGH, SUNIL K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/01/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/575,988	Applicant(s) MEMMOLO ET AL.	
	Examiner Sunil K. Singh	Art Unit 3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 16-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 16-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/18/2010 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. The election/restriction requirement sent out on 11/23/2010 has been withdrawn. Claims 11-14 and 16-21 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 13, 14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vogt et al. (US 2004/0096804) in view of Porter et al. (US 2004/0101808).

Vogt discloses a dental implant and (4A-4B) and a transfer part of a dental implant (3 in Figs. 3a-3c) that includes: a free extension (33) at one end of a transfer part that is capable of coupling a rotational tool and a first radial groove adjacent to the free extension that is capable of receiving a securing element (Figs. 3a-3c); a clamping portion (30); a second radial groove (right above section 301) that is capable to directly engage with the dental implant; a force transmission element (300) having an octagonal surface [0088]; wherein the second radial groove is directly adjacent to the force transmission element (Fig. 3a,3b); an extension (30) having an outer polyhedral (Figs. 3a-3c) and a fixing portion (32) positioned between the extension (33) and the clamping portion (30) (Figs. 3a-3c); wherein the clamping portion (30) provides the sole connection between the transfer part and the implant (Fig. 5b); wherein the clamping portion comprises the force transmission element (300) capable of securing clamping connection against rotation . Vogt further discloses a combination of a transfer part (as previously described) and an inner ampule (Figs. 7a-8c) where the inner ampule includes: a laterally open upper fixing portion (40) with indentions (42) that enlarges radially toward a large surface recess (43) (also shown in Fig. 8a); a lower fixation portion having a laterally open indentation towards the recess and adapted to receive the implant (Fig 8c). Furthermore, Vogt discloses an ampule that includes: the indentation of the upper fixing portion (402) is trumpet like (Figs. 7a-7b) and the lower fixing portion is configured in the form of two support wings (Fig. 8c); the indentation is adapted to receive a fixing portion of the transfer part (Fig. 7e and 8c) and where lower fixing portion is adapted to receive an implant shoulder (Fig. 8c); and where the recess (61) is formed

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with rounded corners at its lower portion opposite to the indentation (Fig. 8c). However, Vogt fails to disclose a dental implant having an undercut dimensioned suitably for clampingly receiving a clamping ring; wherein the undercut corresponds the radial groove of the transfer part; a clamp ring having a gap in its non-assembled state that is inserted in the second radial groove; and wherein the clamping portion connects to the dental implant via clamp ring.

Porter teaches a dental implant (10) that includes an undercut (110) dimensioned suitably for clampingly receiving a clamping ring (116) and wherein the clamping ring allows the clamping portion to connect to the dental implant (Fig. 6D); wherein the clamping ring has a gap in a non-assembled state; and wherein the undercut (110) corresponds to the radial groove (112) of the transfer part (64). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Vogt, to include an implant having an undercut dimensioned suitably for clampingly receiving a clamping ring and the clamping ring being placed in the radial groove of the transfer part (2nd radial groove) that contacts the implant's undercut, as taught by Porter, in order to provide an anti-rotational locking system where the implant is lockingly secured onto the transfer part of the apparatus.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vogt et al. (US 2004/0096804) in view of Porter et al. (US 2004/0101808) and further in view of Sutter et al. (US 5,078,605).

Vogt/Porter discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for a clamp ring being formed from polyether ether ketone (PEEK).

Sutter teaches a ring (31) that is inserted in a groove (25d) that is made of PEEK in order to provide a material non-toxic, biocompatible, and capable of being easily processed (Column 5, Lines 44-51). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Vogt/Porter by forming a ring made of PEEK, as taught by Sutter, in order to provide a ring that is non-toxic and capable of easily being processed.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-14 and 16-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. The Examiner notes, that the rejection has now changed to disclose that the clamping portion is now element (30). Furthermore, the rejection now relies on the teaching reference for a clamping ring that is modified with Vogt to be inserted in the 2nd radial groove. It is clear that now the clamping portion (30) provides the sole connection between the transfer part and the implant as disclosed in Fig. 5b of Vogt.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunil K. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-3460. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (Increased Flex Schedule).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris L. Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-4964. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

1/30/2011

/Sunil K Singh/
Examiner, Art Unit 3732